[President]

8. Mr. G. Narayanan Tampi (*Secretary to Government*)
9. ,, P. G. Narayanan Unnithan (*Excise Commissioner*)
10. ,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai (*Legal Remembrancer*)
11. ,, K. G. Thomas (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*)
12. Dewan Bahadur L. Venkitakrishnan (*Chief Engineer*)

Members of the Sri Chitra State Council.

1. Mr. T. K. Gopalan Nair (*Secretary to Government*)
2. ,, S. John (*Surgeon General*)
3. ,, P. Joseph John (*Ag. Electrical Engineer to Government*)
4. ,, C. Kumara Das (*Secretary to Government*)
5. ,, A. Narayanan Tampi (*Director of Public Instruction*)
6. ,, H. C. Papworth (*Pro-Vice Chancellor*)
7. Dr. H. Parameswaran (*Controller of Stationery and Printing*)
8. Mr. S. Parthasarathi Aiyangar (*Inspector General of Police*)
9. ,, L. Sankaranarayana Pillai (*Secretary to Government and Registrar, Secretariat*)
10. ,, S. N. Ure (*Public Service Commissioner*).

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir. I rise to present the Budget Estimates for the next year. I am doing so in an atmosphere different from that in which I had to present the estimates for the year that is just closing. The financial statements for the current year were placed before the House about this time last year in the midst of anxious, though confident, hopes of an early termination of hostilities. Since then, the hopes have become accomplished facts. The march of events during the past few months has witnessed the complete subjugation of the enemy in the western theatre. But the war in the East is still unfinished and victory can never be deemed complete until the Japanese have also been finally subdued. There has at no time been much doubt about the ultimate defeat of Japan. But the recent successes in the Pacific and in Burma clearly point to the day of final victory in the near future. Though the Victory bells are ringing in our ears from the west, it may yet take a long time for normal conditions to be restored. We are now at the beginning of a period of transition from war to peace from abnormalities to comparatively normal conditions and I need hardly tell the House that a period of transition, with its uncertainties and ever-changing perspective is perhaps, more difficult to plan for than even a period of definite hostilities.

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The good and the evil effects of war still continue, not materially abated. Shipping facilities have yet to become available to us. High prices and scarcity continue to prevail in the market in respect of most of our necessaries of life. But on account of the increasing demand for our raw products and manufactured goods and the large volume of war orders etc., the plethora of money in the land is evident. The revenues of the State are also correspondingly buoyant, even more buoyant than last year and promise to soar up to unattained heights; but the figures will undoubtedly be lower under conditions following the final cessation of hostilities and the restoration of normal conditions. It is then that we shall be confronted with very serious problems of an economic and social character and it is against that rainy day that we have to prepare ourselves. I hope that the House will therefore appreciate why the Budget that I am about to submit to them is designed to be the Budget for the future generation, including as its main feature a programme of reconstruction spread over many years yet to come, more than as a budget for the next year alone. But before I proceed to explain how this is so, I shall, as usual, briefly review the final results of the financial transactions of the last completed year.

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2. The Budget for the last year was prepared on the basis of a total revenue of Rs 385·54 lakhs and a total expenditure charged to revenue of Rs 327·79 lakhs. The revised estimates were, however, fixed at Rs 489·41 lakhs for revenue and Rs 364·09 lakhs for expenditure. The actual collections of the year mounted up to Rs 506·11 lakhs, while the expenditure stood at Rs 366·20 lakhs, which was very nearly the same as the revised estimates. While there was a uniform increase of revenue under almost all the receipt items, the improvement was marked under Customs, Railway, Interest, Currency and Mint, Stamps and the State Transport. The general revision of salaries of the officers of Government in all ranks, the increase in the rates of war allowance and the extension of the scope of the same, chiefly account for the major portion of the increase in expenditure under the several major heads of accounts. Though there was no specific provision in the budget for the last year for the payment of any contribution to the War Fund, a sum of about Rs 4·49 lakhs was actually contributed to the Fund during the year, which, also accounts for the increase in expenditure. The year thus closed with a revenue surplus of Rs 139·91 lakhs, of which Rs 130·91 lakhs was credited to the Post-war Reconstruction Fund and Rs 9 lakhs to the Revenue Reserve Fund.

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